

Advancing Hepatitis C Elimination: A Coordinated National Approach

Hybrid Meeting
National Press Club, Washington, D.C. & Zoom Webinar
December 5, 2023 | 12:30 pm – 4:00 pm ET

Agenda

Background

Chronic hepatitis C infection continues to cause significant morbidity and mortality and is a leading cause of liver cancer and liver transplantation in the US, despite the availability of curative therapies. The Biden Administration has proposed a national program for hepatitis C elimination that prioritizes the development of point of care diagnostics, broad access to curative direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy, and comprehensive public health efforts to engage, inform, identify, and treat individuals with hepatitis C.¹ The Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy has developed a strategic framework and implementation pathway that describes coordinated, complimentary activities to be carried out by actors at the local, state, and national level to advance hepatitis C elimination across impacted populations. The Duke-Margolis work on this framework has focused on leveraging recent experiences in public health and health care delivery transformation, including building test-to-treat programs in community based primary care models; effective COVID-19 management resulting from improved public health analytics; and provider payment reforms that promote continuity and accountability of care to ensure effectiveness and long-term sustainability of an elimination program and maximum impact of a federal investment.

Objectives

The Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy is hosting a public meeting to introduce and present key details from a planned publication, including the strategic framework outlining core areas for improvement across the hepatitis C care cascade, the implementation pathway for reaching each of the key populations, and supportive evidence and lessons learned from past and ongoing public health and healthcare delivery transformation programs.

12:30 pm **Welcome and Overview** (25min)

12:55 pm **Session 1: The Opportunity for Hepatitis C Elimination** (20min)

Objective: There is unprecedented interest in supporting a comprehensive and coordinated approach for advancing hepatitis C elimination on a national scale. During this fireside chat, speakers will discuss the opportunity to increase access to testing and treatment for hepatitis C.

¹ Fleurence RL, Collins FS. A National Hepatitis C Elimination Program in the United States: A Historic Opportunity. *JAMA*. 2023;329(15):1251–1252. doi:10.1001/jama.2023.3692

- 1:15 pm** **Session 2: A Framework for Advancing Hepatitis C Elimination (45min)**
Objective: Despite the availability of curative therapies for chronic hepatitis C infection, challenges persist in testing and treating all impacted populations. Speakers will highlight how a national hepatitis C approach can leverage recent biomedical innovations combined with national progress in provider payment and care delivery reforms that support more effective collaboration between health care, public health, community resources, and private sector innovation that can develop long-term, sustainable capabilities to contain hepatitis C.
- 2:00 pm** **Session 3: State Initiatives to Support Elimination Efforts (45min)**
Objective: State Medicaid organizations have several administrative levers that can be used in combination with existing federal supports to expand access to hepatitis C care to key populations such as the Medicaid eligible, incarcerated, and uninsured populations. This session will feature an overview of state level initiatives through different types of Medicaid waivers and State Plan Amendments that can support financial and infrastructure support for elimination efforts.
- 2:45 pm** **Break (15min)**
- 3:00 pm** **Session 4: Federal Supports for Elimination Efforts (45min)**
Objective: Federal level actions such as provider payment reform beyond providing financial and technical support to state and regional entities can address remaining gaps in the care cascade for hepatitis C treatment. This session will feature an overview of federal actions that can ensure alignment and coordination across public health and health care stakeholders.
- 3:45 pm** **Session 5: Next Steps: Making Hepatitis C Elimination a Reality (10min)**
Objective: In this session, attendees will hear reflections on considerations for carrying out the actions described in the report at the various levels of jurisdiction (federal, state, regional/local). Attendees will also hear about the roles and responsibilities different stakeholders may take on and reflections on steps the administration and Congress can take to initiate a national effort to eliminate hepatitis C.
- 3:55 pm** **Closing Remarks**
- 4:00 pm** **Adjournment**